

# COVID-19 Return to School Update 8/19/2020

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[WeArePublicHealth.org](http://WeArePublicHealth.org) [twitter.com/Maricopahealth](https://twitter.com/Maricopahealth) [facebook.com/MCDPH](https://facebook.com/MCDPH)

# Your Questions



- Benchmarks, data, dashboard
- Symptoms at school
- Home isolation / Quarantine
- Latest signs/symptoms

# COVID-19 in Arizona



- 195,557 cases
  - Confirmed and probable
- 4,634 deaths

## National Data from CDC

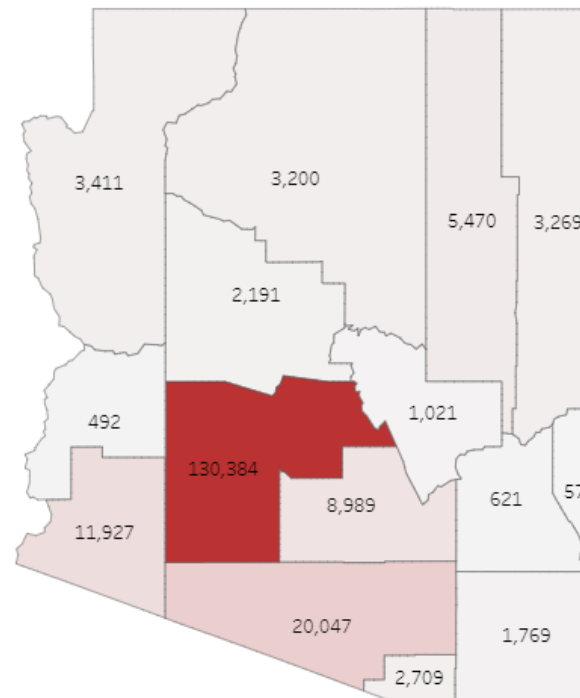
TOTAL CASES  
**5,422,242**  
40,117 New Cases\*

TOTAL DEATHS  
**169,870**  
520 New Deaths\*

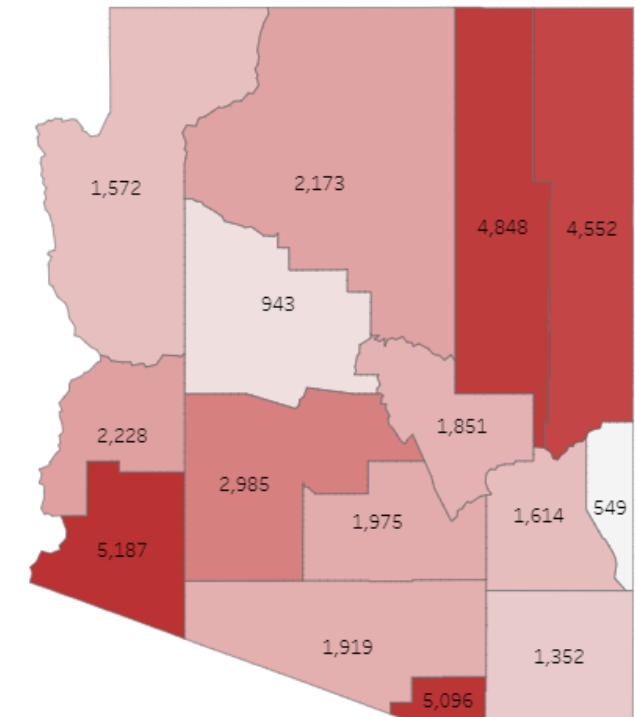
\*Compared to yesterday's data

[About the Data](#)

Cumulative Case Counts



Cumulative Case Rates  
per 100,000 population



Data updated: 8/19/20

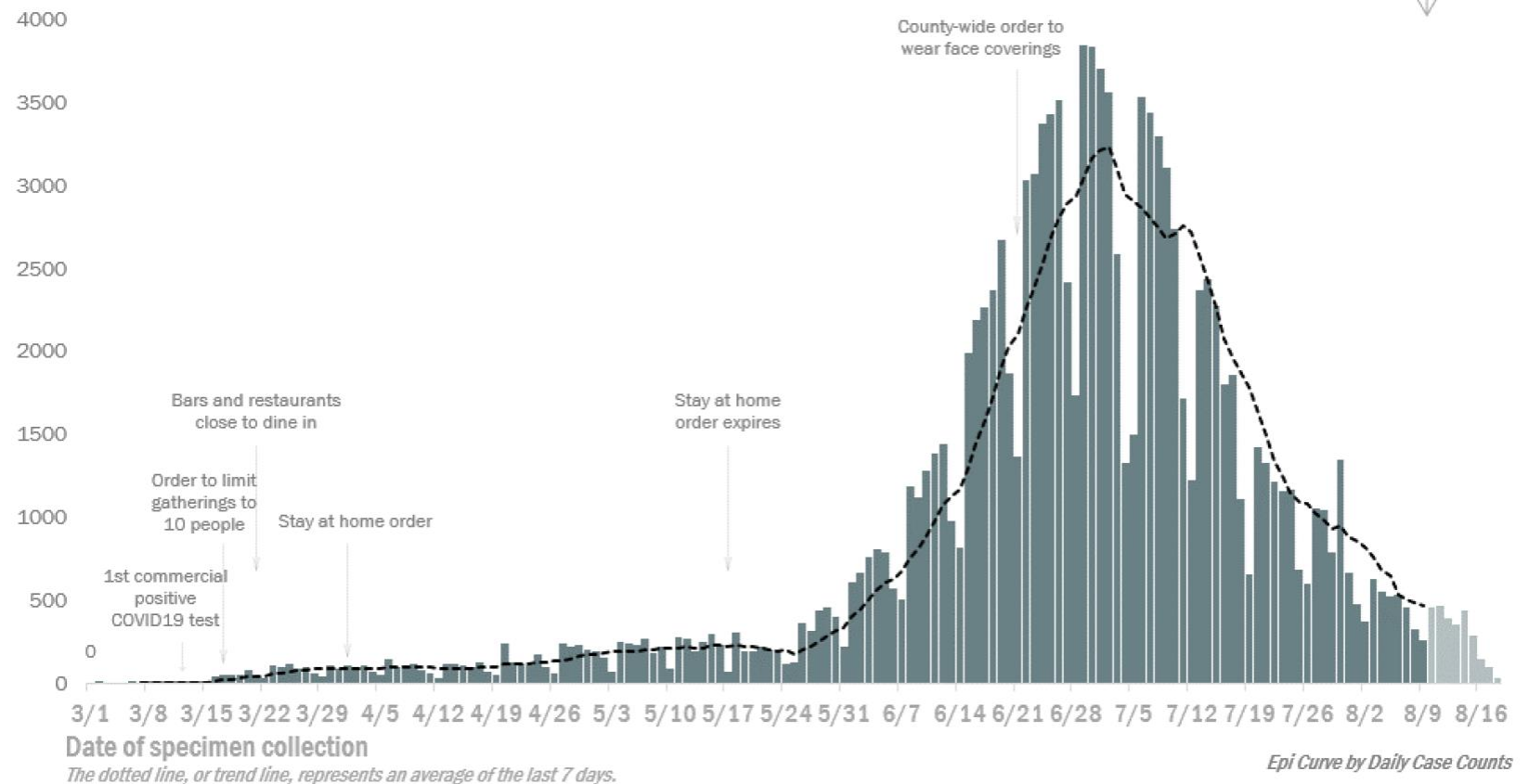
# COVID-19 in Maricopa County



- 130,285 cases in Maricopa
  - Confirmed and probable\*
- 2,702 (2%) deaths
- Labs are catching up

Maricopa County has received **130,285 confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases**.

This number is likely to increase as there is a **9 day** reporting delay from when specimens were collected.

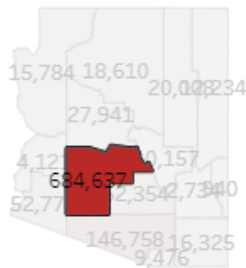


# Lab Testing Data – Maricopa County

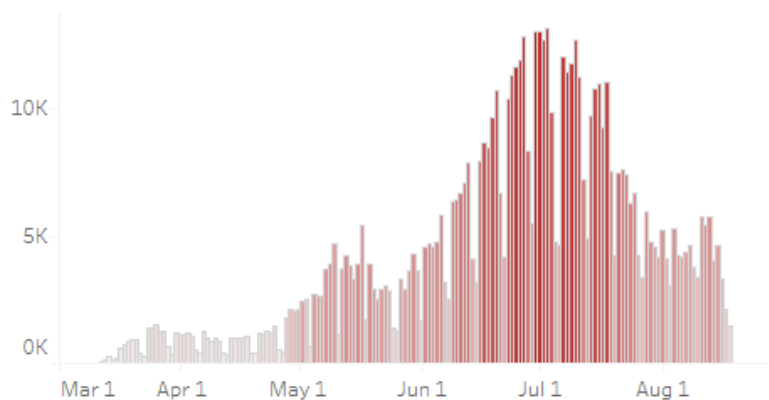


PCR tests completed for COVID-19	PCR tests reported yesterday in Arizona	Total % Positive COVID-19 PCR Tests
684,637	4,424	14.7%

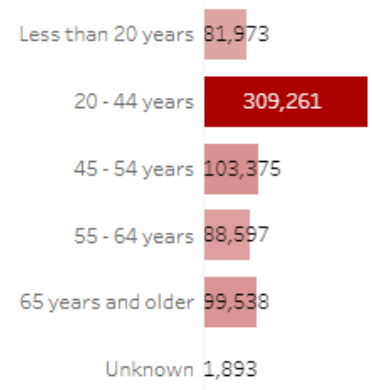
PCR tests by county  
Select a county to filter the data.



PCR tests by date of collection

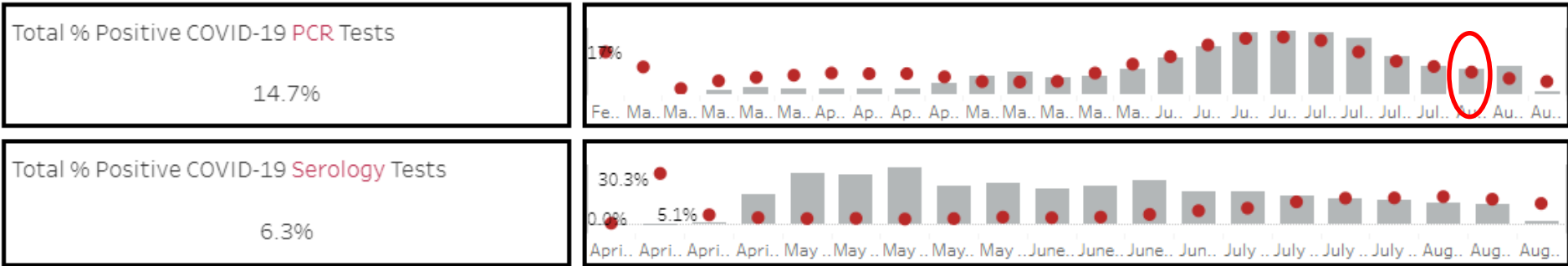


PCR Testing by Age Group



COVID-19 tests completed and percent positive by week

Percent positive is defined as number of people with a positive test result, reported electronically out of all people with COVID-19 testing reported electronically completed in AZ.



# Where to Find Previously Covered Return to School Information



- Previous Webinars and Slides can be found on the Maricopa County Public Health website along with updated guidance

## K-12 SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES

- Arizona Department of Health Services released [benchmarks for safely returning to in-person instruction](#).

<https://www.maricopa.gov/5493/K-12-Schools-and-Childcare-Facilities>

Reopening Dashboard & Guidance

Resources for Parents/Caregivers

Illness Monitoring and Reporting

Webinars

The Arizona Department of Education recently released its Guidance for Families and Educators for the Re-opening of Schools. Please [see the site](#) for the most up-to-date guidance and other resources for Arizona's public district and charter schools as they navigate COVID-19 response.

While many schools begin the academic year in distance-learning environments, here are some things schools can do to support students and families:

- Ensure parents/guardians have a plan to designate a caregiver for a sick child(ren) if parents/guardians can't stay home.
- Share [resources](#) to address food insecurity for families who rely on schools for breakfast and/or lunch.
- Identify how the school will communicate updates to parents/guardians.

## Illness Monitoring and Reporting

Schools should encourage all students/parents, staff, and teachers to self-monitor for symptoms at home prior to leaving for school. Childcare facilities should also instruct staff and families of children attending their facility to conduct symptom monitoring or implement procedures for on-site screening prior to check-in.

# ADHS Benchmarks for Schools



Benchmarks	Minimal	Moderate	Substantial
Cases	< 10 cases/100k	10-100 cases/100k	> 100 cases/100k
Percent Positivity	< 5%	5-10%	> 10%
COVID-like Illness	< 5%	5-10%	> 10%



Initial Reopening % Positivity

**Under 7%!**



## Traditional Learning Scenario 1

All 3 benchmarks in the green category for two consecutive weeks of data.

### Minimal community spread:

Evidence of isolated cases or limited community transmission, case investigations underway; no evidence of exposure in large communal setting



## Hybrid Learning Scenario 2

All 3 benchmarks in the "yellow" or "green" categories for two consecutive weeks of data.

### Moderate Community Spread:

Sustained transmission with high likelihood or confirmed exposure within communal settings and potential for rapid increase in cases



## Virtual w/Onsite Support Learning Scenario 3

One or more benchmarks in the "red" category for two consecutive weeks of data

### Substantial community spread:

Large scale, controlled community transmission, including communal settings (e.g., schools, workplaces)

# Case rates/number of cases



- ADHS offers two metrics
    - Decline in weekly average cases
  - **OR**
  - Case rates below 100 cases per 100,000 population
- 
- MCDPH recommends using **CASE RATES**
    - More accurate reflection of what's happening in your community
    - Accounts for population size



# Percent positivity



- PCR test percent (%) positivity
  - The proportion of all PCR tests performed that week that are positive
  - A higher % positivity can indicate
    - More disease spreading within the community
    - Not enough testing available in the area
  - A % positivity of 0.0% can indicate
    - No or very low number of tests
    - The limited number of tests are negative

# COVID-like illness



- COVID-like illness as a percentage of hospital visits
- Syndromic surveillance data
  - In general, this monitoring system looks for patterns of disease
  - For COVID-19, this is monitoring the % of people visiting ERs and hospitals who have symptoms of COVID-19
  - Based on symptoms, not on testing
- COVID-like illness data are available on a county-wide basis only

# Important timeframes



- ADHS and MCDPH recommend that districts and schools look at data over a 2-week period
  - Avoid week-to-week fluctuations in data
- The data are weekly numbers – Sunday to Saturday
- There is a 12-day lag from the date the data is posted to the “most recent data” listed on the dashboard
  - Ensures that reporting lag times do not impact the numbers
- COVID-like illness is updated in more real-time

# On-site Learning and Services Waiver Criteria

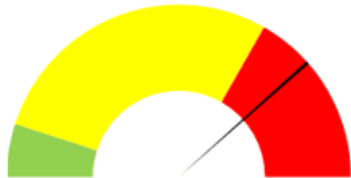


- A waiver is only required and permitted if ALL on-site services will cease due to an outbreak in the community
- MCDPH has determined eligibility for a waiver using the district case rate per 100,000 population
  - More than 2x the rate of Maricopa County for two consecutive weeks

## *Maricopa County Case Rates Per 100,000 People*

Most Recent Week's Rate Benchmark: Dates 07/26/20 - 08/01/20

125 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week



Cases per 100k people needed for waiver eligibility: **>250 cases/100k**

Prior Week's Rate Benchmark: Dates 07/19/20 - 07/25/20

167 cases per 100,000 Maricopa County residents per week



Cases per 100k needed for waiver eligibility: **>334 cases/100k**

# MCDPH Data Dashboard



Home » Departments » Public Health » Diseases We Track » Coronavirus Disease 2019 » K-12 Schools and Childcare Facilities » School Metrics

## SCHOOL REOPENING DASHBOARD & GUIDANCE

The two key components to reopening school buildings for in-person instruction are the quality of the school's mitigation plan, and the level of spread occurring within the community where the school is located. Public Health has created a dashboard tool to assist with decision-making for the types of learning scenario schools may consider for re-opening. This dashboard will allow decision-makers to view their selected area's overall risk level related to community transmission of COVID-19 and the recommended learning scenario, or delivery model of instruction, based on that status. Data used to generate this report are based upon the [benchmarks and thresholds for re-opening](#) established by the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Using the Dashboard

Planning and Guidance Resources

Benchmarks & Learning Scenarios

School Waiver Requests

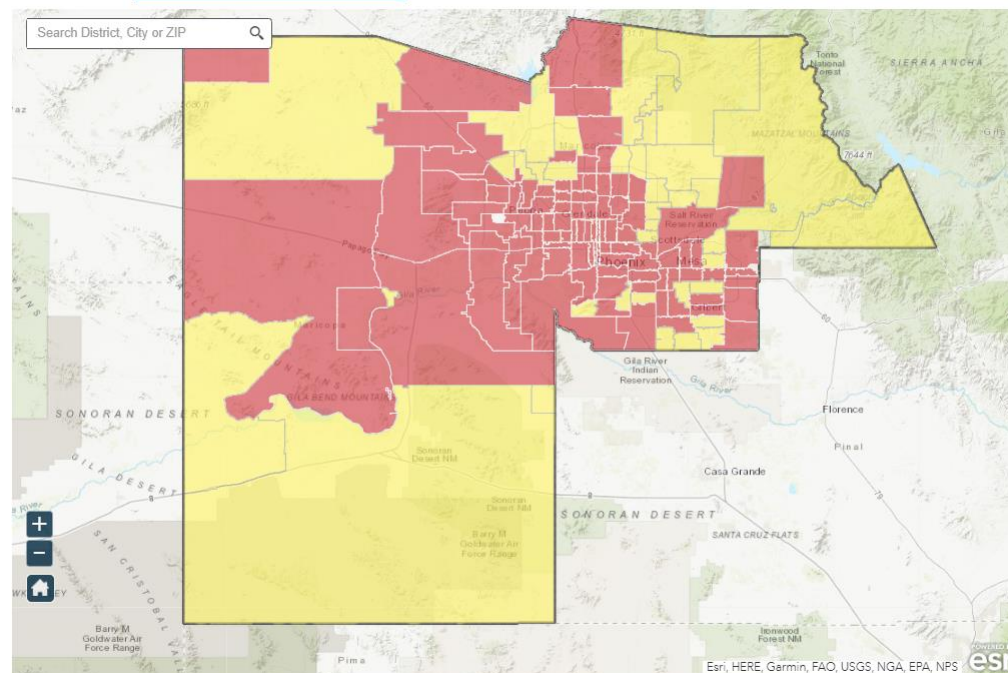
## USING THE DASHBOARD



Utilizing the map below, reports can be viewed by Zip Code, City, Unified School District, High School District or Elementary District by selecting from the "View report by" drop-down menu. By clicking on your selected area on the map, a pop-up report will generate a value for that area's overall COVID-19

<https://www.maricopa.gov/5594/School-Metrics>

View report by: ZIP Code



Elementary  
School  
District

High School  
District

Unified  
School  
District

City

ZIP Code

\*The color shown is the highest for all three metrics

\*Data includes current and prior week data

# Update: Antigen Testing



- Last week we asked for your input if MCDPH should consider acquiring Sofia 2 SARS Antigen Test Machines
- MCDPH leadership is in the decision-making process
- We will provide updates on this when available

# UPDATES



- Face Coverings from MCDPH
  - Shipping now
- ADHS – FREE Face Masks for Arizonans



Free, washable cloth masks available to order by anyone who is part of a vulnerable population, who is a student (or parents on behalf of students) or school staff member, or who may not be able to purchase a mask.

- [Place an Order](#)
- One order per household, each order contains 5 cloth masks

Questions about the program? [Check out our FAQs.](#)

 **CLOTH FACE MASKS**

- Recommended by CDC for use in public
- Effective at reducing spread of COVID-19
- Most effective when they fit snugly over the nose and mouth, use a thick material, multiple layers, and a poly-cotton blend



 **FACE SHIELDS**

- Not recommended by CDC without a cloth face mask
- Not proven to reduce spread of COVID-19
- Should wrap around the sides of the wearer's face and extend below the chin



 **NECK GAITERS/BANDANAS**

- Convenient to take on and off
- Less effective at preventing droplet spread
- If used, should consider thicker materials, folding them to create multiple layers, and a poly-cotton blend



 **VALVE MASKS**

- Easier to exhale
- Puts others at risk from wearer's respiratory droplets that shoot out of the valve
- Specifically excluded from allowable masks under Maricopa County mask mandate



- Cloth and disposable masks are most effective
- Neck Gaiters and Bandanas are less effective
  - If used, double up the layers and use a poly-cotton blend
- DO NOT use valve masks!



# American Academy of Pediatrics



- “Cloth face coverings **can be safely worn by all children 2 years of age and older**, including the vast majority of children with underlying health conditions, with **rare exception**. In addition to protecting the child, the use of cloth face coverings significantly reduces the spread of severe acute respiratory syndrome-coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and other respiratory infections within schools and other community settings, as well as in the home.
- Use of cloth face coverings at home may be beneficial in helping children to become accustomed with their use in school. Home use of face coverings also may be particularly valuable in households that include medically fragile or at-risk adults and children. Parents are encouraged to discuss infection control practices with their pediatrician.”
- <https://services.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/cloth-face-coverings/>

# UPDATES – GUIDANCE POSTED SOON!



- Cleaning and Disinfection Guidance
- School Transportation Guidance
- Food Services Guidance
- Sample notification letter
- Additional guidance for steps to take if student or staff develops symptoms or is diagnosed with COVID-19

# Questions we cannot answer



- "What is legally allowable..."
- Questions related to school finances
- Questions related to attendance numbers
- Questions related to families changing enrollment
- Questions related to school employee benefits and sick leave policies

# Questions?



- Please visit [Maricopa.gov/coronavirus](https://maricopa.gov/coronavirus)
- [SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov](mailto:SchoolHealth@maricopa.gov)
  - (602)-506-6767
  - This webinar will be posted to our website

